



- - **Belmont Human Rights Commission**
 - **Belmont Public Library**
 - **Assembly Room**
 - **February 3, 2011**
 - **Meeting Notes**
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- Members Present: Julie Cicalese, Nan Donald, Chuck Laverty, Paul Solomon, Connie Williams, Fran Yuan
- Members Absent: Lisa Bernt, Carl Brauer
- Liaisons Present: Captain Peter Hoerr (Belmont Police Department)
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- 1. Fran took notes.
- 2. January meeting minutes were approved unanimously.
- 3. No phone calls noted.
- 4. Member opening: No new prospect has come forward. Steve Shestakofsky was mentioned; Fran agreed she would approach him.
- 5. MAHRC update: Lisa was not in attendance to report.
- 6. Members recalled the MLK Breakfast, the high attendance numbers and the inspiration of the two young speakers. Fran reported on the First Church in Belmont immigration panels that were presented in January, sharing some of the information and wishing it had been video-taped. One panel member indicated that letting one's visa expire was an administrative violation and not a criminal offense. Capt. Hoerr mentioned that there was no training for police on immigration as related to their work but that the police sometime refer to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), which deals with undocumented individuals. All names of those stopped when there is probable cause are run through a data bank to see if the person is undocumented. Question was raised whether police could use more training related to immigration issues.
- 7. Members were encouraged to bring a family photo to the public library for the One Book One Belmont Immigrant Ancestors Photo Project. Several members confirmed their intention to do so.

- 8. As far as meeting venues are concerned, the library is not available on any of our usual meeting nights. We are still on schedule to meet at the Beech Street Center on Friday, March 4th at 12:45 a.m. Fran has also arranged to attend the Clergy Council's monthly meeting on Wed. March 2 at 10:15 a.m. Connie plans to also attend.
- 9. We are considering a town-wide showing of the video Rolling or Race: The Power of Illusion, which we will be viewing tonight. Rolling is available for viewing on-line.
- 10. Fran will file the annual report which is due in late February. She noted that this past year, we had a lot of discussions but little activity, which she hopes will change this year.
- 11. Nan brought up getting religious groups involved in what we do. Connie mentioned Harvey Cox as someone who might be of interest. In light of the Arizona shooting, Nan was concerned that Senator Kerry spoke of people with mental health issues and guns in a way that generalized about all people with mental health issues. It was suggested that Nan write Senator Kerry a letter voicing her views. Connie thought we should do some education about people with mental health issues. Julie mentioned that in cases of sexual harassment and violence, one might look for certain behaviors or a sudden change in behavior.
- 12. The segment of Race: The Power of an Illusion, The House We Live In, was shown. Fran said that it was a powerful film that gives background to the inequities between African-Americans and Whites that exist today. Further discussion of if and when to show it publicly will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The meeting was adjourned at 9 p.m.